

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 95
By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach John Cooley and the Ridgeway High School Roadrunners on winning the 2002 TSSAA Class 3A State Football Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgeway High School Roadrunners achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2002 season, establishing a record of 14-1 and winning the TSSAA Class 3A Football Championship, thus conquering this high level of football competition; and

WHEREAS, after an unfortunate and hard-fought, season-opening loss, the Roadrunners went undefeated for the rest of the regular season and rolled over five straight opponents in the playoffs, culminating in their championship victory over Fulton High School; and

WHEREAS, the Roadrunners' impressive record of victories during the regular season included: a 21-0 win over Kingsbury, a 22-6 win over White Station, a 17-8 win over Trezevant,

a 21-0 victory over Portland, a 55-22 win over Hillcrest, a 49-6 victory over Westwood, a 21-6 win over Raleigh Egypt, a 59-0 win over Northside, and a 20-0 win over Sheffield; and

WHEREAS, equally as impressive in the playoffs, the Roadrunners shut out Brighton 28-0 in the first round, beat Kingsbury for the second time in the season by a score of 22-0 in the second round, defeated Covington 24-20 in the Quarterfinals, shut out Crockett County 29-0 in the Semifinals, and, of course, won the State Championship in convincing fashion with a 21-14 victory over Fulton; and

WHEREAS, the Roadrunners' dominant Championship season was made possible by their indomitable offense and the constant and tremendous pressure exerted by their defense, which was ranked first overall in the State and allowed fewer points than any other defense in the State; the seniors on the team who led the attack are: Gordon Williams, Keon Morning, Jay Raynor, Jeremy Campbell, Landon Pike, Ben White, Carlos Suggs, Brian Bernatsky, Ben Hobbs, Zak Hansen, Erick Berryhill, Demarcus Butts, Prince Cameron, Princeton Robinson, and manager Joseph Montesi; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach John Cooley laid the groundwork for this championship season by sharing his substantial knowledge of football with the young men on the team; Principal Harold Russell contributed significantly to the team's success by most willingly providing his support to the football program; and

WHEREAS, Ridgeway High School Football has a long tradition of success, winning City and Region Championships this season in addition to being crowned State Champs; this unconquerable team has won sixty games in the last six years, and has won its Regional Championship three of the last four years; and

WHEREAS, the State Football Championship is but one of four championships that Ridgeway won in 2002; they also won Boys' Soccer, Girls' Track, and Boys' Basketball titles, and Ridgeway has also won five consecutive "Best of the Preps" awards; and

WHEREAS, the football players at Ridgeway High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the gridiron while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the Ridgeway student body and united the entire Memphis community in completing their triumphal run through the 2002 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship football season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Ridgeway Roadrunners for winning the 2002 TSSAA Class 3A State Football Championship and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach John Cooley and the Ridgeway High School Roadrunners on their remarkable 2002 season and State Championship. In becoming TSSAA Class 3A State Football Champions, the Roadrunners have proven themselves exemplary and capable young men who are worthy of this General Assembly's accolades.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.